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STATE OF HAWAII EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING

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Testimony COMMENTING on HB0471 Relating to Aging

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS REPRESENTATIVE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR

> Testimony of Caroline Cadirao PSM Manager, Executive Office on Aging Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 6, 2019

8:30 AM

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health supports the intent of HB0471 and offers comments on this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure requires the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs
- 5 (PABEA) to establish quorum requirement through its bylaws and post its bylaws on the
- 6 Executive Office on Aging's website. PABEA is established by statute in HRS 349-4 to advise
- 7 the director of EOA including but not limited to: 1) identification of issues and alternative
- 8 approaches to solutions; 2) development of position statements and papers; 3) advocacy and
- 9 legislative actions; and 4) program development and operations. PABEA meets on the first
- Friday of the month and has provided EOA with feedback on our programs and been a strong
- advocate for our kupuna. Last year, PABEA requested a statute amendment to change the

- 1 composition of the Board by: 1) decreasing the number of members; 2) specifying that ex-officio
- 2 member are nonvoting members, and 3) revising the list of agencies that provide representatives
- 3 to serve as ex-officio members. The Governor signed Act 134 into law on July 5, 2018.
- 4 However, even with decreasing the number of members that will constitute a quorum to conduct
- 5 its meetings, PABEA has a difficult time meeting the default quorum of fifty per cent of
- 6 members plus one.
- 7 **Recommendation**: EOA would like to suggest language that quorum be "a majority of the
- 8 <u>currently serving members, but in no event fewer than eight, shall constitute quorum</u>". This may
- 9 help the situation when PABEA has fewer than its maximum 21 members, and yet ensure that it
- 10 never goes lower than its statutorily-mandated minimum number of members.
- 11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-471

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:38:15 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
GARY SIMON	PABEA Legislative Committee	Support	No	

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness.

I am Gary Simon, member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) Legislative Committee.

PABEA is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of the PABEA Legislative Committee.

My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA and its Legislative Committee.

PABEA and its Legislative Committee support HB 471.

PABEA is allowed a maximum of 21 members.

Quorum is 11.

However, only 16 seats are occupied.

Furthermore, 6 of the 16 seated members reside on Hawaii Island, Kauai, and Maui.

With 5 vacancies and a significant number of members residing on Hawaii Island, Kauai, and Maui, achieving quorum for PABEA meetings is difficult.

Allowing PABEA to set quorum requirements through its bylaws will allow PABEA the flexibility needed to establish quorum in a dynamic environment where its membership and meeting attendance continuously fluctuate.

Subsequently, PABEA will be able to fulfill its duties to EOA.

We urge you to support HB 471 and to recommend its passage.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Member, PABEA Legislative Committee

HB-471

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:42:27 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn	PABEA	Support	No

Comments:

To Members of the House Committees on Human Services and Judiciary

From. Marilyn R Seely, member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Regarding HB 471

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:30 am

Chairs Buenaventura and Lee and members of the committees

I am writing in support of HB 471. The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) is a board whose purpose is to advise the director of the Executive Ofice on Aging in matters pertaining to the well being of Hawaii's residents age 60 and over.

It has been increasingly difficult to meet quorum for PABEA because members many of whom are over age 60 and live on the neighbor islands. At times illness or other situations prevent them from attending with very short notice given. In the past we were able to accept call-ins from absent members and thus meet quorum. The Sunshine Law changed that.

When there are vacancies on the board it is even more difficult to meet the higher quorum.

This measure will assist us to meet quorum which will be based on the number of appointed members rather than the number of allowed members and thus be able to better conduct our business and share our minutes with the public.

We urge you to support this measure and thank you for your consideration.

HB-471 Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:53:51 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: